(b) if so, whether Government propose to involve important persons such as winners of Magsasay Award and NGOs in the implementation of the programme; and

(c) if so, the details of the programme and the persons likely to be involved?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) While there is no programme titled "Water to All by 2010", as per the National Agenda for Governance of the Government of India, it is proposed to cover all rural habitations with drinking water supply facilities by the year 2004. Government of India have launched reforms in the Rural Water Supply sector for institutionalising community participation through demand-responsive and decentralised approaches in 63 identified Districts in 26 States. The entire rural community, including NGOs and prominent personalities/experts, are to be involved in the implementation of the reforms.

Check on Coal Mafia

*340. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of coal mafia syndicates are running parallel administrtion in the coal belts in Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any serious efforts to check such parallel administration of coal mafia's;

(c) whether the officials of CIL and its subsidiaries dare having close links with coal mafia's and providing all necessary help to them;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to remove coal mafia's in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Whenever reports of any irregularities are received, the Coal Companies take necessary corrective measures:

The measures taken by the Coal Companies to check the irregularities are as follows:

(i) Specific cases of any irregularity are investigated by the Vigilance Departments of CIL and its subsidiaries. Appropriate departmental proceedings are initiated and penalties imposed on officials, where charges of irregularities are established;

(ii) The CBI also initiates suo moto inquires where cases of grave irregularities come to their notice. Based on their findings, either prosecution is launched or departmental proceedings are initiated;

(iii) A drive has been launched, with the help of the concerned State Governments, to verify the antecedents of linked consumers in the non-core sector sponsored by State Governments;

(iv) Steps have been initiated to streamline the functioning of ex-servicemen transport companies engaged in coal transportation;

(v) Measures are being devised in consultation with the State Authorities to prevent misuse or multiple use of Delivery Orders.

The following steps are continuously taken by the Coal Companies to check malpractices:

(i) Intensive patrolling by the Central Industrial Security Force and security personnel of coal companies;

(ii) Close liaison with the State/district authorities;

(iii) Raids by CISF and local police on illegal coal depots;

(iv) Surprise checks/raids by security personnel;

(v) Handing over of miscreants to the police and lodging of FIRs.